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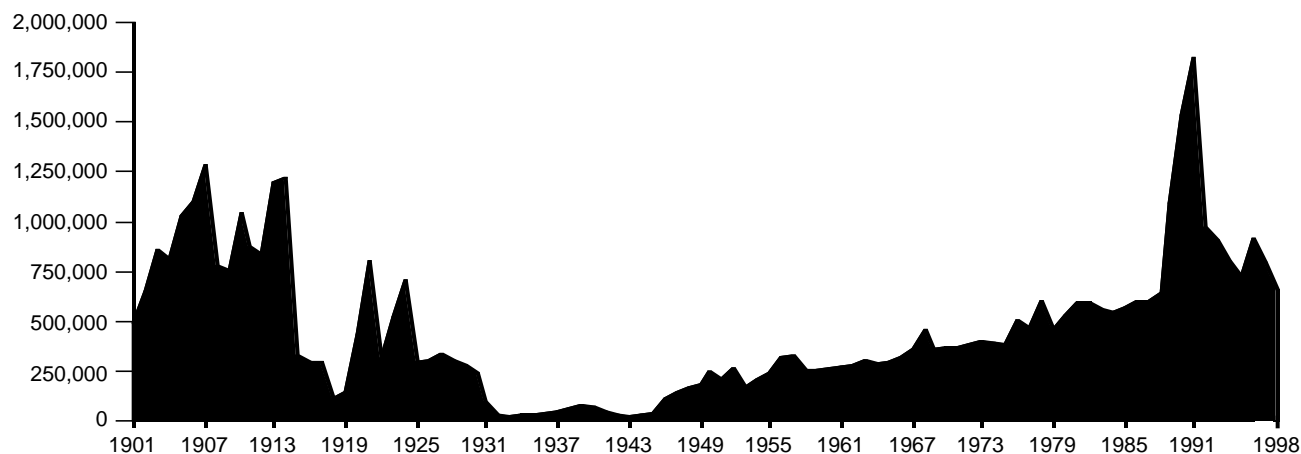
## Legal Immigration, Fiscal Year 1998

This report provides a summary of INS statistics on immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence during fiscal year 1998 (October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998). Included as legal immigrants are: 1) aliens who were previously living abroad; and 2) aliens who were already living in the United States, in some cases, for many years. The former obtain immigrant visas through the U.S. Department of State (DOS) allowing them to enter

pending a decision. As a result, this report does not describe trends in legal immigration or changes in the demographic composition of legal immigrants in any detail.

Data were obtained from the Computer Linked Applicant Information Management System (CLAIMS) of the INS. CLAIMS maintains information from the Immigrant Visa and Alien

Chart 1. Legal Immigration: Fiscal Years 1901-98



the United States. The latter adjust status through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

In recent years, including fiscal year 1998, legal immigration has been affected by an increasing number of adjustments of status applications

Registration (OF-155A) of the DOS for immigrant new arrivals and from applications to adjust status (I-485) of the INS. Further information about the data is included in the Appendix. An attached set of tables includes detailed statistical information for further reference.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Legal immigration in 1998 (660,477) was at its lowest level since 1988 (643,025). (See Chart 1). Fewer immigrants than expected have been admitted for legal permanent residence in recent years as the number of adjustment of status applications pending a decision has grown (See Chart 2).
- ❖ During the 1995-98 period, legal immigration would have been an estimated 450,000-550,000 higher than reported if the pending caseload had not increased.
- ❖ The demographic composition of legal immigrants, including category of admission, changed very little between 1996-97 and 1997-98. The impact of pending adjustment of status applications on the characteristics of immigrants is unknown.

### Estimated Impact of Pending Adjustment of Status Applications

Between the end of fiscal years 1994 and 1998, the number of adjustment of status applications pending a decision increased 690,000 from 121,000 to 811,000. During this period, the number of applications approved failed to keep pace with receipts.<sup>1</sup>

The impact of pending adjustment of status applications on legal immigration during fiscal years 1995-98 was estimated using the method for

1995-97 presented in *Legal Immigration, Fiscal Year 1997*. For 1995-98, it is estimated that legal immigration would have been 450,000-550,000 higher had pending applications not increased 690,000. The upper bound estimate of 550,000 assumes that 7 percent of applications would have been denied (the historical denial rate) and that 14 percent were family preference applicants (the proportion of all adjustment of status legal immigrant during fiscal years 1995-98), none of whom contributed to the increase in pending caseload. The lower bound estimate of 450,000 takes into account the increase in the family preference limit in 1996 attributable to pending adjustment of status applications in fiscal year 1995.

Ordinarily, family preference adjustment of status applications pending a decision do not decrease legal immigration because of a waiting list of applicants. The DOS regulates immigration under the preference system by issuing visas to aliens on the waiting list whenever it appears that the annual limits may not be reached. (Unlike family preferences, there is little waiting for most employment preferences so an increase in pending caseload decreases legal immigration.) In fiscal year 1998, however, DOS was unable to issue all the family preference visas allowable under the annual limits because of delays in the application process caused by revisions in the affidavit of support.<sup>2</sup>

The calculations presented above suggest that legal immigration might have been 110,000-140,000 higher on average each year during 1995-98

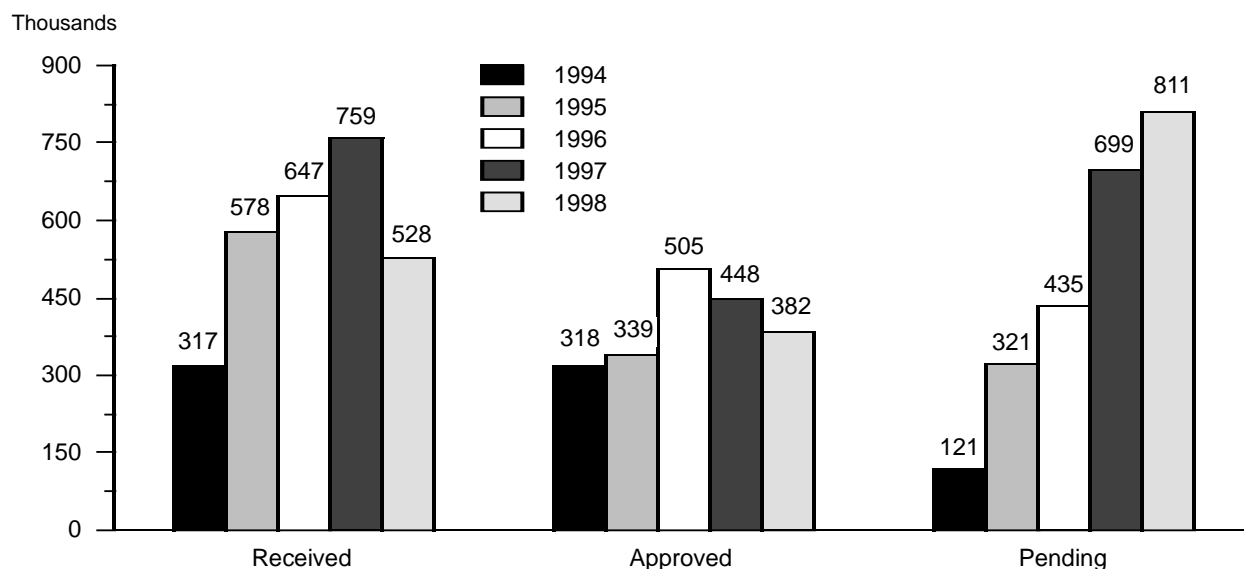
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<sup>1</sup> Adjustment of status applications were up during 1995-97 while the Section 245i provision of immigration law was in effect (October 1995-January 1998). Section 245i allowed illegal aliens who were already living in the United States but eligible for legal permanent residence to apply for adjustment of status at a local INS office. Previously, eligible aliens had to leave the country and apply for immigrant visas at DOS consular offices.

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<sup>2</sup> Effective December 1997, the affidavit of support, which must be filed for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, family preferences, and certain other categories of immigrants, became an enforceable contract, and household income of sponsors had to exceed the federal poverty guidelines by at least 125 percent. Additional information required of applicants increased the time it took to complete the affidavit of support application correctly. The new rules also delayed the adjustment of status application process, but because of the pending caseload, did not affect adjustment of status approvals in 1998.

**Chart 2. Immigrant Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485): Fiscal Years 1994-98**



without any increase in the pending caseload. It should be noted, as in the 1997 report, that the average conceals some known annual variation. Pending adjustment of status applications increased more during fiscal years 1995 and 1997 than during fiscal year 1996 when the increase in the family preference limit offset much of the loss from pending applications. In 1998, the decline in the number of applications received may have prevented the pending caseload from growing more rapidly.

CLAIMS does not maintain data on the characteristics of applicants whose adjustment of status applications are pending a decision. It may be assumed that immigrant categories most affected in 1998 include those which traditionally have had the highest percentages of adjustments of status cases: employment preferences; refugees; and spouses of U.S. citizens.

## APPENDIX

### *Notes on Data*

*Terms and definitions* — Legal immigrants according to immigration law are persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. Other terms used in INS reports to refer to legal immigrants include: aliens who were granted legal permanent residence; aliens admitted for legal permanent residence; immigrants admitted; and admissions.

There are two general administrative paths open to aliens wishing to become legal permanent residents depending on their residence at the time of application. Aliens living abroad apply for an immigrant visa at a consular office of the Department of State. Once issued a visa, they may enter the United States. They are granted legal permanent residence at the time they pass through the port of entry. Aliens already living in the United States, including certain undocumented

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immigrants, temporary workers, foreign students, and refugees, become legal immigrants by filing an application with the INS for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence. Adjustment of status applicants are granted legal permanent residence at the time their applications are approved. New legal immigrants are automatically authorized to work. They should receive alien registration cards (“green cards”) within several weeks of becoming legal permanent residents, but in recent years this process has sometimes taken longer.

*Fiscal year legal immigration* — The INS tabulates data on legal immigrants each fiscal year. Before fiscal year 1998, each year’s total included a small number of aliens granted legal permanent residence in previous fiscal years for whom demographic information had not been entered into the automated systems used to generate the annual data.

*Data quality* — During fiscal years 1997 and 1998, the INS transitioned immigrant application processing from the Immigrant Card Facility (ICF) to the Computer Linked Applicant Information Management System (CLAIMS). Most immigrant records for fiscal year 1998 were selected using the date of approval for legal permanent residence. Alternative methods were required for selecting records for certain categories of immigrants, including refugees, asylees, and cancellation of removal. For these immigrant categories, an earlier or rollback date, rather than the actual approval date, is stored in the admission/adjustment date field for counting the time spent toward meeting the residency requirement for naturalization.

Refugees and cancellation of removal cases were selected using the most recent date of data entry as a proxy for the approval date. Asylee cases were selected by adding one year to the date appearing in the admission/adjustment date field since asylees are eligible for naturalization 4 years after they become legal permanent residents.

The refugee count (44,709) was consistent with the number of approvals (44,829) reported through the INS workload statistics (G-22.2 report), although less than what would have been expected (80,000 or more) based on recent trends in the refugee ceiling, the number of refugee arrivals, and the number of refugee adjustments of status.

Counts for cancellation of removal immigrants (428) and asylees (7,546) were considered too low. The annual limits, 4,000 and 10,000, respectively, were reached during fiscal year 1998 and substituted as estimates. Demographic characteristics for the 6,026 additional cases ((10,000-7,546) asylees + (4,000-428) cancellation of removal) were assumed unknown.

In addition, some of the variables traditionally included in the data extract for the annual legal immigrant reports were not included initially in CLAIMS. This omission has been corrected for fiscal year 1999. However, about 100,000 of the 1998 records are missing information for country of chargeability and nationality, marital status, occupation, and nonimmigrant class and year of entry.

### ***Preference Limits***

The Immigration Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-649) restructured the immigrant categories of admission and made other modifications to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The 1990 Act divided the preference classes into two general categories: family-sponsored and employment-based. Limits on the number of visas issued in these two categories are determined annually.

*Family-sponsored limits* — The worldwide level for family-sponsored preferences is calculated as:

480,000 minus the number of aliens who were issued visas or adjusted to legal permanent residence in the previous fiscal year as 1) immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, 2) children born subsequent to the

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issuance of a visa to an accompanying parent, and 3) children born abroad to lawful permanent residents on temporary trips abroad, plus unused employment preferences in the previous fiscal year.

The 1990 Act specifies that the family-sponsored limit may not go below a minimum of 226,000 in any year. The number of legal permanent residents issued visas or who adjusted in fiscal year 1997 under categories 1-3 listed above was 336,384, and 40,710 employment-based visas were unused in 1997. The 1998 family-sponsored limit, therefore, was set to 226,000 ( $480,000 - 336,784 + 40,710 = 184,326$  which is below 226,000). The limits for each of the family-sponsored preferences and their descriptions are shown below.

*Employment-based limits* — The 1990 Act specifies that the worldwide limit on employment-

based preference immigrants is equal to 140,000 plus unused family-preference visas in the previous year. The limit for fiscal year 1998 was set to 140,000 ( $140,000 + \text{no unused family-preference visas in 1997} = 140,000$ ).

*Per-country limits* — The per-country limit on preference immigration for independent countries is set to 7 percent of the total family and employment limits ( $226,000 + 140,000 = 366,000$ ), while dependent areas are limited to 2 percent of the total. The 1998 limit for independent foreign states was 25,620 (7 percent of 366,000) and the limit for dependencies was 7,320 (2 percent of 366,000).

*Diversity limits* — This classification became effective in fiscal year 1995. The annual limit is set at 55,000.

## Categories of Immigrants Included in World-Wide Annual Limit Specified in Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act: Unadjusted and Fiscal Year 1998 Limits

PREFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	UNADJUSTED LIMIT	LIMIT
<b>Family-sponsored immigrants</b>		<b>480,000 <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>480,000 <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Family-sponsored preferences</b>		<b>226,000</b>	<b>226,000</b>
First	Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their children	23,400 <sup>2</sup>	23,400 <sup>2</sup>
Second	Spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens	114,200 <sup>3</sup>	114,200 <sup>3</sup>
Third	Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens	23,400 <sup>3</sup>	23,400 <sup>3</sup>
Fourth	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens (at least 21 years of age)	65,000 <sup>3</sup>	65,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Immediate relatives of adult U.S. citizens (spouses, children, and parents) and children born abroad to alien residents</b>		Not limited; assumed to be <b>254,000 <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>254,000 <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Employment-based preferences</b>		<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>
First	Priority workers	40,040 <sup>4</sup>	40,040 <sup>4</sup>
Second	Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability	40,040 <sup>3</sup>	40,040 <sup>3</sup>
Third	Skilled workers, professionals, needed unskilled workers, and Chinese Student Protection Act immigrants	40,040 <sup>3</sup>	40,040 <sup>3</sup>
Fourth	Special immigrants	9,940	9,940
Fifth	Employment creation ("Investors")	9,940	9,940
<b>Diversity</b>		<b>55,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>675,000</b>	<b>675,000</b>

Note: The annual limits are adjusted based on visa usage in the previous year.

<sup>1</sup> The number of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens included in these figures is assumed to be 254,000. Immediate relatives may enter without any limitation, however, the limit for family-sponsored preference immigrants in a fiscal year is equal to 480,000 minus the number of immediate relatives admitted in the preceding year. The limit of family-sponsored preference visas cannot go below a minimum of 226,000—the worldwide limit of 480,000 minus 254,000. <sup>2</sup> Plus unused family 4th preference visas. <sup>3</sup> Visas not used in higher preferences may be used in these categories. <sup>4</sup> Plus unused employment 4th and 5th preference visas.

**Table 1. Immigrants Admitted by Major Category of Admission: Fiscal Years 1995-98**

Category of admission	1998		1997		1996		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>660,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798,378</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>915,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>720,461</b>	<b>100.0</b>
New arrivals .....	357,037	54.1	380,718	47.7	421,405	46.0	380,291	52.8
Adjustments of status .....	303,440	45.9	417,660	52.3	494,495	54.0	340,170	47.2
<b>Categories related to world-wide limits</b> .....	<b>598,787</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>675,816</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>772,737</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>593,234</b>	<b>82.3</b>
<b>Family-sponsored immigrants</b> .....	<b>475,750</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>535,771</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>596,264</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>460,376</b>	<b>63.9</b>
<b>Family-sponsored preferences</b> .....	<b>191,480</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>213,331</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>294,174</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>238,122</b>	<b>33.1</b>
Unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. citizens .....	17,717	2.7	22,536	2.8	20,909	2.3	15,182	2.1
Spouses and children of alien residents .....	88,488	13.4	113,681	14.2	182,834	20.0	144,535	20.1
Married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens .....	22,257	3.4	21,943	2.7	25,452	2.8	20,876	2.9
Siblings of U.S. citizens .....	63,018	9.5	55,171	6.9	64,979	7.1	57,529	8.0
<b>Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens</b> <sup>1</sup> .....	<b>284,270</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>322,440</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>302,090</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>222,254</b>	<b>30.8</b>
Spouses .....	151,172	22.9	170,263	21.3	169,760	18.5	123,238	17.1
Parents .....	61,724	9.3	74,114	9.3	66,699	7.3	48,382	6.7
Children .....	70,472	10.7	76,631	9.6	63,971	7.0	48,740	6.8
Children born abroad to alien residents .....	902	.1	1,432	.2	1,660	.2	1,894	.3
<b>Legalization dependents</b> .....	<b>21</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>Z</b>
<b>Employment-based preferences</b> ..	<b>77,517</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>90,607</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>117,499</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>85,336</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Priority workers .....	21,408	3.2	21,810	2.7	27,501	3.0	17,339	2.4
Professionals with advanced degree or of exceptional ability .....	14,384	2.2	17,059	2.1	18,462	2.0	10,475	1.5
<i>Skilled, professionals, unskilled</i> ..	<i>34,317</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>42,596</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>62,756</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>50,245</i>	<i>7.0</i>
Chinese Student Protection Act .....	41	Z	142	Z	401	Z	4,213	.6
Needed unskilled workers ....	6,255	.9	8,702	1.1	11,849	1.3	7,884	1.1
Other skilled, professionals ..	28,021	4.2	33,752	4.2	50,506	5.5	38,148	5.3
Special immigrants .....	6,584	1.0	7,781	1.0	7,844	.9	6,737	.9
Investors .....	824	.1	1,361	.2	936	.1	540	.1
<b>Diversity programs</b> .....	<b>45,499</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>49,374</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>58,790</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>47,245</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Permanent .....	45,499	6.9	49,360	6.2	58,245	6.4	40,301	5.6
Transition .....	X	X	14	Z	545	.1	6,944	1.0
<b>Other categories</b> .....	<b>61,690</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>122,562</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>143,163</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>127,227</b>	<b>17.7</b>
Amerasians .....	346	.1	738	.1	956	.1	939	.1
Parolees, Soviet and Indochinese .....	1,225	.2	1,844	.2	2,269	.2	3,086	.4
<i>Refugees and asylees</i> .....	<i>54,709</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>112,158</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>128,565</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>114,664</i>	<i>15.9</i>
Refugee adjustments .....	44,709	6.8	102,052	12.8	118,528	12.9	106,827	14.8
Asylee adjustments <sup>2</sup> .....	10,000	1.5	10,106	1.3	10,037	1.1	7,837	1.1
Cancellation of removal <sup>2</sup> .....	4,000	.6	4,628	.6	5,811	.6	3,168	.4
<i>Total, IRCA legalization</i> .....	<i>955</i>	<i>.1</i>	<i>2,548</i>	<i>.3</i>	<i>4,635</i>	<i>.5</i>	<i>4,267</i>	<i>.6</i>
Residents since 1982 .....	954	.1	1,439	.2	3,286	.4	3,124	.4
Special Agricultural Workers .....	1	Z	1,109	.1	1,349	.1	1,143	.2
Other .....	455	.1	646	.1	927	.1	1,103	.2

<sup>1</sup> May enter without limitation; the number admitted may affect the limit on family-sponsored preference immigrants in the following year.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated. See Notes on Data in Appendix.

X Not applicable. Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.

**Table 2. Immigrants Admitted by Region and Selected Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 1995-98**

Region and country of birth	1998		1997		1996		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All countries .....</b>	<b>660,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798,378</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>915,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>720,461</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Africa .....	40,660	6.2	47,790	6.0	52,889	5.8	42,456	5.9
Asia .....	219,696	33.3	265,786	33.3	307,807	33.6	267,931	37.2
Europe .....	90,793	13.7	119,898	15.0	147,581	16.1	128,185	17.8
<b>North America .....</b>	<b>252,996</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>307,488</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>340,540</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>231,526</b>	<b>32.1</b>
Caribbean .....	75,521	11.4	105,299	13.2	116,801	12.8	96,788	13.4
Central America .....	35,679	5.4	43,676	5.5	44,289	4.8	31,814	4.4
Other North America .....	141,796	21.5	158,513	19.9	179,450	19.6	102,924	14.3
Oceania .....	3,935	.6	4,342	.5	5,309	.6	4,695	.7
South America .....	45,394	6.9	52,877	6.6	61,769	6.7	45,666	6.3
Unknown .....	7,003	1.1	197	Z	5	Z	2	Z
1. Mexico .....	131,575	19.9	146,865	18.4	163,572	17.9	89,932	12.5
2. China, People's Republic .....	36,884	5.6	41,147	5.2	41,728	4.6	35,463	4.9
3. India .....	36,482	5.5	38,071	4.8	44,859	4.9	34,748	4.8
4. Philippines .....	34,466	5.2	49,117	6.2	55,876	6.1	50,984	7.1
5. Dominican Republic .....	20,387	3.1	27,053	3.4	39,604	4.3	38,512	5.3
6. Vietnam .....	17,649	2.7	38,519	4.8	42,067	4.6	41,752	5.8
7. Cuba .....	17,375	2.6	33,587	4.2	26,466	2.9	17,937	2.5
8. Jamaica .....	15,146	2.3	17,840	2.2	19,089	2.1	16,398	2.3
9. El Salvador .....	14,590	2.2	17,969	2.3	17,903	2.0	11,744	1.6
10. Korea .....	14,268	2.2	14,239	1.8	18,185	2.0	16,047	2.2
11. Haiti .....	13,449	2.0	15,057	1.9	18,386	2.0	14,021	1.9
12. Pakistan .....	13,094	2.0	12,967	1.6	12,519	1.4	9,774	1.4
13. Colombia .....	11,836	1.8	13,004	1.6	14,283	1.6	10,838	1.5
14. Russia .....	11,529	1.7	16,632	2.1	19,668	2.1	14,560	2.0
15. Canada .....	10,190	1.5	11,609	1.5	15,825	1.7	12,932	1.8
16. Peru .....	10,154	1.5	10,853	1.4	12,871	1.4	8,066	1.1
17. United Kingdom .....	9,011	1.4	10,651	1.3	13,624	1.5	12,427	1.7
18. Bangladesh .....	8,621	1.3	8,681	1.1	8,221	.9	6,072	.8
19. Poland .....	8,469	1.3	12,038	1.5	15,772	1.7	13,824	1.9
20. Iran .....	7,883	1.2	9,642	1.2	11,084	1.2	9,201	1.3
Subtotal .....	443,058	67.1	545,541	68.3	611,602	66.8	465,232	64.6
Other .....	217,419	32.9	252,837	31.7	304,298	33.2	255,229	35.4

Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.



**Table 3. Immigrants Admitted by Selected State and Metropolitan Area of Intended Residence:  
Fiscal Years 1995-98**

State and metropolitan area	1998		1997		1996		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All states .....</b>	<b>660,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798,378</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>915,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>720,461</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1. California .....	170,126	25.8	203,305	25.5	201,529	22.0	166,482	23.1
2. New York .....	96,559	14.6	123,716	15.5	154,095	16.8	128,406	17.8
3. Florida .....	59,965	9.1	82,318	10.3	79,461	8.7	62,023	8.6
4. Texas .....	44,428	6.7	57,897	7.3	83,385	9.1	49,963	6.9
5. New Jersey .....	35,091	5.3	41,184	5.2	63,303	6.9	39,729	5.5
6. Illinois .....	33,163	5.0	38,128	4.8	42,517	4.6	33,898	4.7
7. Washington .....	16,920	2.6	18,656	2.3	18,833	2.1	15,862	2.2
8. Massachusetts .....	15,869	2.4	17,317	2.2	23,085	2.5	20,523	2.8
9. Virginia .....	15,686	2.4	19,277	2.4	21,375	2.3	16,319	2.3
10. Maryland .....	15,561	2.4	19,090	2.4	20,732	2.3	15,055	2.1
11. Michigan .....	13,943	2.1	14,727	1.8	17,253	1.9	14,135	2.0
12. Pennsylvania .....	11,942	1.8	14,553	1.8	16,938	1.8	15,065	2.1
13. Georgia .....	10,445	1.6	12,623	1.6	12,608	1.4	12,381	1.7
14. Connecticut .....	7,780	1.2	9,528	1.2	10,874	1.2	9,240	1.3
15. Ohio .....	7,697	1.2	8,189	1.0	10,237	1.1	8,585	1.2
16. Minnesota .....	6,981	1.1	8,233	1.0	8,977	1.0	8,111	1.1
17. Colorado .....	6,513	1.0	7,506	.9	8,895	1.0	7,713	1.1
18. North Carolina .....	6,415	1.0	5,935	.7	7,011	.8	5,617	.8
19. Arizona .....	6,211	.9	8,632	1.1	8,900	1.0	7,700	1.1
20. Nevada .....	6,106	.9	6,541	.8	5,874	.6	4,306	.6
Other .....	73,076	11.1	81,023	10.1	100,018	10.9	79,348	11.0
<b>All metropolitan areas .....</b>	<b>660,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798,378</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>915,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>720,461</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1. New York, NY .....	82,175	12.4	107,434	13.5	133,168	14.5	111,687	15.5
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA ..	59,598	9.0	62,314	7.8	64,285	7.0	54,669	7.6
3. Chicago, IL .....	30,355	4.6	35,386	4.4	39,989	4.4	31,730	4.4
4. Miami, FL .....	28,853	4.4	45,707	5.7	41,527	4.5	30,935	4.3
5. Washington, DC-MD-VA .....	24,032	3.6	31,444	3.9	34,327	3.7	25,717	3.6
6. San Francisco, CA .....	14,540	2.2	16,892	2.1	18,171	2.0	15,773	2.2
7. Oakland, CA .....	13,437	2.0	15,723	2.0	15,759	1.7	12,011	1.7
8. Houston, TX .....	13,183	2.0	17,439	2.2	21,387	2.3	14,379	2.0
9. Boston-Lawrence, MA <sup>1</sup> .....	12,725	1.9	13,937	1.7	18,726	2.0	16,750	2.3
10. San Jose, CA .....	12,656	1.9	17,374	2.2	13,854	1.5	12,855	1.8
11. Orange County, CA .....	10,954	1.7	18,190	2.3	17,580	1.9	18,187	2.5
12. Fort Lauderdale, FL .....	9,951	1.5	10,646	1.3	10,290	1.1	8,373	1.2
13. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA .	9,967	1.5	9,518	1.2	10,314	1.1	7,568	1.1
14. San Diego, CA .....	9,840	1.5	14,758	1.8	18,226	2.0	12,077	1.7
15. Detroit, MI .....	9,811	1.5	10,019	1.3	11,929	1.3	9,899	1.4
16. Dallas, TX .....	9,602	1.5	11,061	1.4	15,915	1.7	9,843	1.4
17. Newark, NJ .....	9,553	1.4	10,801	1.4	17,939	2.0	11,162	1.5
18. Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA ..	9,385	1.4	10,692	1.3	10,429	1.1	9,652	1.3
19. Philadelphia, PA-NJ .....	9,129	1.4	10,858	1.4	13,034	1.4	11,440	1.6
20. Bergen-Passaic, NJ .....	8,597	1.3	9,788	1.2	15,682	1.7	9,385	1.3
Other .....	272,134	41.2	318,397	39.9	373,369	40.8	286,369	39.7

<sup>1</sup> Includes Lowell and Brockton.

**Table 4. Immigrants Admitted by Gender and Age: Fiscal Years 1995-98**

Gender and age	1998		1997		1996		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>660,477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798,378</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>915,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>720,461</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
Male .....	299,946	45.4	365,484	45.8	422,740	46.2	333,859	46.3
Female .....	353,426	53.5	432,699	54.2	493,142	53.8	386,582	53.7
Unknown .....	7,105	1.1	195	Z	18	Z	20	Z
<b>Age</b>								
Under 15 years .....	129,291	19.6	157,089	19.7	186,362	20.3	157,325	21.8
15-29 years .....	213,360	32.3	264,183	33.1	304,855	33.3	237,385	32.9
30-44 years .....	177,942	26.9	212,937	26.7	246,823	26.9	185,838	25.8
45-64 years .....	101,884	15.4	124,923	15.6	135,980	14.8	105,863	14.7
65 years and over .....	30,717	4.7	39,070	4.9	41,780	4.6	33,993	4.7
Unknown age .....	7,283	1.1	176	Z	100	Z	57	Z
<b>Gender and age</b>								
<b>Male</b>								
Under 15 years .....	64,515	9.8	79,006	9.9	94,105	10.3	79,494	11.0
15-29 years .....	99,146	15.0	120,842	15.1	141,874	15.5	109,270	15.2
30-44 years .....	79,566	12.0	95,565	12.0	110,421	12.1	84,524	11.7
45-64 years .....	42,782	6.5	52,685	6.6	58,373	6.4	46,028	6.4
65 years and over .....	13,353	2.0	17,301	2.2	17,912	2.0	14,513	2.0
Unknown age .....	584	.1	85	Z	55	Z	30	Z
<b>Female</b>								
Under 15 years .....	64,640	9.8	78,050	9.8	92,249	10.1	77,824	10.8
15-29 years .....	113,820	17.2	143,278	17.9	162,975	17.8	128,110	17.8
30-44 years .....	97,973	14.8	117,311	14.7	136,398	14.9	101,310	14.1
45-64 years .....	58,985	8.9	72,208	9.0	77,607	8.5	59,832	8.3
65 years and over .....	17,340	2.6	21,765	2.7	23,868	2.6	19,479	2.7
Unknown age .....	668	.1	87	Z	45	Z	27	Z
<b>Median Age .....</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>X</b>
Male .....	28	X	28	X	27	X	27	X
Female .....	29	X	29	X	29	X	29	X

Note: Male and female totals by age may not sum to total by age because of records with unknown gender.

X Not applicable. Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.

**Table 5. Immigrants Aged 16 to 64 Admitted by Occupation: Fiscal Years 1995-98**

Occupation	1998		1997		1996		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Immigrants aged 16-64 .....</b>	<b>479,849</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>586,830</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>669,814</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>514,993</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Professional specialty and technical</b>	<b>44,297</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>61,733</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>74,220</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>58,214</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Architects .....	1,229	.3	539	.1	565	.1	472	.1
Engineers, surveyors and mapping scientists .....	7,863	1.6	10,281	1.8	11,605	1.7	8,990	1.7
Mathematical and computer scientists .....	2,541	.5	2,606	.4	3,276	.5	2,127	.4
Natural scientists .....	2,490	.5	3,516	.6	3,729	.6	2,371	.5
Health diagnosing occupations ....	4,650	1.0	6,012	1.0	6,853	1.0	4,866	.9
Physicians .....	3,824	.8	5,237	.9	5,922	.9	4,072	.8
Other .....	826	.2	775	.1	931	.1	794	.2
Health assessment and treating ..	3,612	.8	9,023	1.5	12,482	1.9	11,654	2.3
Nurses .....	2,485	.5	6,161	1.0	8,243	1.2	8,118	1.6
Other .....	1,127	.2	2,862	.5	4,239	.6	3,536	.7
Teachers, postsecondary .....	2,553	.5	3,338	.6	4,664	.7	3,650	.7
Teachers, except postsecondary...	5,614	1.2	7,757	1.3	8,701	1.3	7,221	1.4
Counselors, educational and vocational .....	195	Z	259	Z	255	Z	186	Z
Librarians, archivists, and curators	96	Z	124	Z	223	Z	153	Z
Social scientists and urban planners .....	618	.1	710	.1	832	.1	577	.1
Social, recreation, and religious workers .....	2,983	.6	3,463	.6	3,665	.5	2,725	.5
Lawyers and judges .....	662	.1	827	.1	984	.1	810	.2
Writers, artists, entertainers and athletes .....	3,583	.7	5,161	.9	6,453	1.0	5,036	1.0
Health technologists and technicians .....	3,532	.7	1,471	.3	1,062	.2	737	.1
Technologists and technicians, except health .....	2,076	.4	6,646	1.1	8,871	1.3	6,639	1.3
<b>Executive, administrative, managerial .....</b>	<b>18,002</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>25,651</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>31,115</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>24,306</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Sales occupations .....</b>	<b>10,123</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>13,906</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>14,955</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>11,329</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Administrative support occupations .....</b>	<b>12,514</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>18,172</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>21,526</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>18,177</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Precision production, craft, and repair .....</b>	<b>11,905</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>20,131</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>23,421</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>18,068</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....</b>	<b>32,354</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>70,433</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>75,551</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>50,755</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Farming, forestry, and fishing .....</b>	<b>10,185</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>11,809</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>13,195</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>11,282</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Service occupations .....</b>	<b>24,241</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>52,051</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>60,722</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>45,609</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>No occupation .....</b>	<b>171,620</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>277,749</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>317,349</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>239,704</b>	<b>46.5</b>
Homemakers .....	79,412	16.5	113,868	19.4	125,714	18.8	88,890	17.3
Unemployed or retired .....	34,682	7.2	84,198	14.3	98,761	14.7	78,093	15.2
Students and/or children under age 16 .....	57,526	12.0	79,683	13.6	92,874	13.9	72,721	14.1
<b>Unknown or not reported .....</b>	<b>144,608</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>35,195</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>37,760</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>37,549</b>	<b>7.3</b>

Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.